GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4688
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN BEINGS BY PHARMACEUTICAL GIANTS
N.N. KRISHNADAS;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that human beings have become subjects for certain pharmaceutical giants to test their drugs as reported in the `Hindu`, Delhi, dated March 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to stop such inhumane experimentation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c): Clinical trials on human subjects is an integral part of drug development process worldover and are also being conducted in this country as per guidelines /norms prescribed internationally. These human subjects are enrolled after proper in-house screening procedure including complete health check-up and biochemical analysis of blood/plasma/urine. The pharmaceuticals companies are required to follow the Good Clinical Practice guidelines and guidelines issued by Indian Council of Medical Research for Ethical aspects of Biomedical Research on human subjects and conduct the clinical studies after approval of respective Institutional Ethics Committees. Thus, it is not a fact that there is exploitation of poor people for human clinical trial.